

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of assessing information technology ("IT") products for their target market, comprising:

determining a plurality of criteria that are important to a target market, and at least one attribute to be used for measuring each of the criteria;

specifying objective measurements for each of the attributes; and

conducting an evaluation of an IT product, further comprising:

inspecting a representation of the IT product, with reference to ~~selected ones of~~ the attributes;

assigning attribute values to the ~~selected~~ attributes, according to how the IT product compares to the specified objective measurements;

using programming code of a computer to programmatically compute ~~computing~~ a product assessment score, for the IT product, ~~[[from]]~~ by summing the assigned attribute values;

for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below a threshold value, using programming code of the computer to programmatically compute ~~computing~~ a product assessment score increase that will result by raising that assigned attribute value to the threshold value, the programmatically computing a product assessment score increase comprising using programming code of the computer to compute a revised ~~recomputing the~~ product assessment score for the IT product using the threshold value as a replacement for the assigned attribute value of the ~~selected~~ attribute in the summing and then subtracting the product assessment score from the revised product assessment score; and

using programming code of the computer to programmatically ~~generating~~ generate

a list of recommended actions, the list having an entry for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below the threshold value, each of the entries providing at least one suggestion for improving the assigned attribute value and a specification of the programmatically-computed product assessment score increase for that ~~selected~~ attribute.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
prioritizing each of the attributes in view of its importance to the target market;
assigning weights to the attributes according to the prioritizations; and
using the weights when programmatically computing the product assessment score and the revised product assessment score.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the conducting an evaluation is repeated at a plurality of plan checkpoints used in developing the IT product.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 5, wherein successful completion of each of the plan checkpoints requires the product assessment score to exceed a predetermined minimum product assessment score.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein a product team developing the IT
2 product provides input for the evaluation by answering questions on a questionnaire that reflects
3 the attributes.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the assigned attribute
2 values, the product assessment score, and the list of recommended actions are recorded in a
3 workbook.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 8, wherein the workbook is an electronic
2 workbook.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein a product team
2 developing the IT product provides input for the evaluation by answering questions on a
3 questionnaire that reflects the attributes, and wherein the answers to the questions, the assigned
4 attribute values, the product assessment score, and the list of recommended actions are recorded
5 in an electronic workbook.

1 Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising providing
2 the assigned attribute values, the product assessment score, the list of suggestions for improving
3 the assigned attribute values, and the specifications of the programmatically-computed product
4 assessment score increases to a product team developing the IT product.

1 Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 8, further comprising providing
2 the assessment workbook, following the evaluation, to a product development team which is
3 developing the IT product.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising assigning
2 a special designation to the IT product if and only if the assessment score exceeds a predefined
3 minimum product assessment score.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of assessing an information technology ("IT") product,
2 comprising:

3 determining a plurality of criteria for measuring an IT product, and at least one attribute
4 that may be used for measuring each of the criteria;

5 specifying objective measurements for each of the attributes; and

6 conducting an evaluation of the IT product, further comprising:

7 inspecting a representation of the IT product, with reference to ~~selected ones of~~
8 the attributes;

9 assigning attribute values to the ~~selected~~ attributes, according to how the IT
10 product compares to the specified objective measurements; and

11 using programming code of a computer to programmatically compute computing
12 a product assessment score, for the IT product, ~~[[from]]~~ by summing the assigned attribute
13 values, and for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below a
14 predetermined threshold value, using programming code of the computer to programmatically

~~compute~~ ~~computing~~ a product assessment score increase that will result by raising that assigned attribute value to the predetermined threshold value, the programmatically computing a product assessment score increase comprising using programming code of the computer to compute a revised recomputing the product assessment score for the IT product using the predetermined threshold value as a replacement for the assigned attribute value of the ~~selected-attribute~~ in the summing and then subtracting the product assessment score from the revised product assessment score.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 14, wherein the conducting the evaluation further comprises generating a list of recommended actions for improving the IT product.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the list has an entry for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below the predetermined threshold value.

Claim 17 (original): The method according to Claim 16, wherein each of the entries provides at least one suggestion for improving the assigned attribute value.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 14, wherein the specified objective measurements further comprise textual descriptions to be used in the assigning attribute values.

1 Claim 19 (original): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the textual descriptions identify
2 guidelines for assigning the attribute values using a multi-point scale.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 14, further comprising using
2 the programmatically-computed product assessment score to determine whether the IT product
3 may exit a plan checkpoint.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 14, further comprising using
2 the programmatically-computed product assessment score to determine whether the IT product
3 receives a special designation indicating its support of the measurement criteria.

Claims 22 - 23 (canceled)

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of assessing information technology ("IT") products for
2 their target market, comprising:

3 conducting an evaluation of an IT product, further comprising:

4 inspecting a representation of the IT product, with reference to ~~selected ones of a~~
5 plurality of attributes, wherein the attributes are defined to measure a plurality of criteria that are
6 important to the target market; and

7 assigning attribute values to the ~~selected~~-attributes, according to how the IT
8 product compares to objective measurements which have been specified for each of the attributes;

9 recording results of conducting the evaluation;

10 using the recorded results to programmatically compute a product assessment score, using
11 programming code of a computer, for the IT product [[from]] by summing the assigned attribute
12 values, wherein the programmatically-computed product assessment score thereby indicates how
13 well the product meets the criteria that are important to the target market; and

14 for each of the ~~selected~~-attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below a
15 predetermined threshold value, using the recorded results to programmatically compute a product
16 assessment score increase, using programming code of the computer, that will result by raising
17 that assigned attribute value to the threshold value, the programmatically computing a product
18 assessment score increase comprising using programming code of the computer to compute a
19 revised recomputing the product assessment score for the IT product using the threshold value as
20 a replacement for the assigned attribute value of the ~~selected~~-attribute in the summing and then
21 subtracting the product assessment score from the revised product assessment score.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 24, further comprising charging
2 a fee for carrying out one or more of the conducting, recording, and using.

1 Claim 26 (currently amended): A system for assessing an information technology ("IT") product
2 for its target market, the system comprising a computer and instructions which are executable,
3 using a processor of the computer, to perform:

4 determining a plurality of criteria that are important to a target market, and at least one
5 attribute to be used for measuring each of the criteria;

6 specifying objective measurements for each of the attributes; and
7 conducting an evaluation of an IT product, further comprising:
8 inspecting a representation of the IT product, with reference to ~~selected ones of~~
9 the attributes;
10 assigning attribute values to the ~~selected~~ attributes, according to how the IT
11 product compares to the specified objective measurements;
12 programmatically computing a product assessment score, for the IT product,
13 ~~[[from]]~~ by summing the assigned attribute values;
14 for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below
15 a threshold value, programmatically computing a product assessment score increase that will
16 result by raising that assigned attribute value to the threshold value, the programmatically
17 computing a product assessment score increase comprising ~~recomputing the~~ computing a revised
18 product assessment score for the IT product using the threshold value as a replacement for the
19 assigned attribute value of the ~~selected~~ attribute in the summing and then subtracting the product
20 assessment score from the revised product assessment score; and
21 programmatically generating a list of recommended actions, the list having an entry
22 for each of the ~~selected~~ attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below the threshold
23 value, each of the entries providing at least one suggestion for improving the assigned attribute
24 value and a specification of the programmatically-computed product assessment score increase
25 for that ~~selected~~ attribute.

1 Claim 27 (currently amended): A computer program product for assessing an information

2 technology ("IT") product for its target market, the computer program product embodied on at
3 least one computer-usable storage medium and comprising computer-usable program code for:

4 determining a plurality of criteria that are important to a target market, and at least one
5 attribute to be used for measuring each of the criteria;

6 specifying objective measurements for each of the attributes; and

7 conducting an evaluation of an IT product, further comprising:

8 inspecting a representation of the IT product, with reference to ~~selected ones of~~
9 the attributes;

10 assigning attribute values to the ~~selected~~-attributes, according to how the IT
11 product compares to the specified objective measurements;

12 programmatically computing a product assessment score, for the IT product,
13 [[from]] by summing the assigned attribute values;

14 for each of the ~~selected~~-attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below
15 a threshold value, programmatically computing a product assessment score increase that will
16 result by raising that assigned attribute value to the threshold value, the programmatically
17 computing a product assessment score increase comprising ~~recomputing the~~ computing a revised
18 product assessment score for the IT product using the threshold value as a replacement for the
19 assigned attribute value of the ~~selected~~-attribute in the summing and then subtracting the product
20 assessment score from the revised product assessment score; and

21 programmatically generating a list of recommended actions, the list having an entry
22 for each of the ~~selected~~-attributes for which the assigned attribute value falls below the threshold
23 value, each of the entries providing at least one suggestion for improving the assigned attribute

24 value and a specification of the programmatically-computed product assessment score increase
25 for that selected attribute.